

Columbia River Basin Salmon Management Policy C-3620

*2014 Annual Review
January 9, 2015*



Policy Summary

- Commission adopts Columbia Basin Salmon Management Policy (C-3620) in January, 2013
- Policy effective through 2023
- Transition period 2013-2016
- Annual review beginning in 2014 and a comprehensive review after 2016

Transition Period (2013-16)

- Progressive shift of mainstem salmon allocation to the sport fishery
- Further development of selective gear for the mainstem commercial fishery
- Implement pilot alternative gear commercial fisheries
- Increase salmon production in the off-channel areas
- Investigate expansion of off-channel fishing area for the commercial fishery
- Begin development of a commercial buyback program
- Consider additional measures to enhance fishery management effectiveness.

2014 Policy Implementation

- Public processes
- Implementing provisions of the policy
- Adaptive management
- Fishery policy guidelines, planning and performance

Public Processes in 2014

- A total of 51 Columbia River Compact hearings were held to consider and implement Columbia River fisheries
- Three Columbia River Recreational and Commercial Advisory Group meetings were held to review run forecasts and receive input on fishery management and alternative gear development
- Participation in the North of Falcon process by working with managers and constituents to develop management plans for the summer and fall fisheries

Gill Net License Buyback

- Coordinating with ODFW and the industry to evaluate interest in a buyback program
- Discussing a survey to gauge industry interest
- Funding sources not currently identified

Development/Implementation of Alternative Gear

- Purse and Beach seines appear to be a viable gear for salmon harvest in the fall
 - Steelhead handle can be relatively high
 - Pilot commercial seine fishery conducted in fall 2014 with mixed results
- Seines fished in the summer handle moderate numbers of Chinook but sockeye handle is high
 - Snake River sockeye are ESA-listed and allowable impacts are limited
- Three year release mortality study complete and under review

Development/Implementation of Alternative Gear

- Coho tanglenets evaluated in 2009-2011 and showed promise for mark-selective fishery
- Full fleet fisheries implemented in 2013 and 2014
 - Structure similar to spring Chinook seasons with live-capture regulations in place
 - 2015 season likely to also include a coho tanglenet fishery
- Three-year mortality rate study complete in 2015
 - Analysis of post-release mortality is ongoing
 - Mortality study rates will replace interim rates

Development/Implementation of Alternative Gear

- Other gear types reviewed or under investigation include:
 - Ocean commercial troll gear (2009); low catch rates
 - Pound net (2013); negligible catch rates
 - Fish wheel – planning stage – Securing permits big hurdle
 - Floating fish trap – (2009-10); low catch rates; inconclusive
 - Arrow net – (2013-14) limited field testing; inconclusive

Washington Select Area Plans

- Continue to investigate the Cathlamet Channel as a new Select Area site – (2015 will be 3rd year)
- Continue to work closely with the city of Cathlamet to secure net pen site and agencies to secure permits
- Spring Chinook smolts (~200K) released in 2014 from net pens. Similar plan for 2015
- Deep River releases (350K) discontinued in 2014
- Work to secure funding for spring Chinook and coho enhancements

Oregon Select Area Plans

- Expand season opportunities
- Provide additional hatchery fish for release by shifting current production and/or providing new production
 - Enhanced production generally on track in 2014
 - 2015 on track for coho and spring Chinook, fall Chinook may be ~250K short of the 1.9 million goal
- Expand area boundaries – research ongoing since 2011
- Establish new Select Area sites - initiated in 2014
 - Four areas investigated; work to continue in 2015

Additional Plan Elements

- Barbless hooks required to aid in the safe release of wild fish
 - Oregon considering exceptions for specific Select Area sites and parts of the Willamette
 - Washington Commission considering exceptions during certain times and areas in some lower river tributaries
- To increase management certainty, the Department continues to work to secure funding sources to support fishery monitoring, data collection and analysis
- Improve accuracy of preseason forecasts and in-season run size updates-ongoing in TAC reviews
- Improve in-season tracking of ESA impacts of each fishery

Adaptive Management

- Commissions track implementation through annual reviews; if policy expectations not achieved:
 - determine causes & identify action to correct course
 - make adjustments needed to stay on track
- Cohesive package - the key elements and principles of the plan would remain intact

Adaptive Management *(continued)*

- Reconsideration of state-managed mainstem fisheries may take place under the following circumstances:
 - Lower than anticipated catch and economic expectations to the commercial industry
 - Insufficient space in off-channel sites to accommodate the commercial fleet
 - Biological, fiscal and/or legal circumstances that delay or preclude implementation of alternative gear, buyback of commercial permits, and/or additional off-channel hatchery investments
 - Management objectives are not achieved for sport or commercial fisheries
 - Conflicts with the terms of the *US v Oregon* Management Agreement with Columbia River tribes
 - Failure to meet conservation objectives

2014 Spring Season

- Upriver spring Chinook forecast – 227,000 fish
- Actual return – 242,600 fish; 107% of forecast
- ESA impacts shared 70/30 sport/commercial
- LCR sport season open for 77 of 107 possible days from Mar 1- Jun15, including 13 days in April
- Zone 6 season open 86 days March 16-May 9 and May 31-June 15
- Snake River Sport open in four areas, staggered closures in late May. Re-opened in June- total of 62 days open
- Adaptive management implemented to transfer fish from LCR sport to upper fisheries for continued opportunity

2014 Spring Season *(Continued)*

- Commercial fisheries - five periods during April 1- June 5
- Tanglenets used through mid-May
- Adaptive management implemented to allow use of large-mesh gear to avoid shad and increased salmonid handle time
- Adaptive management implemented to potentially transfer remaining ESA impacts to initiate final commercial fishing period (June 4)
- Select Areas – harvest well below average; emergency closures necessary to remain within allocated ESA limits

Spring Chinook Season Results

		<u>Catch Balance</u>			<u>ESA Impacts</u>		
		Pre	Post	Actual	Pre	Post	Actual
Commercial	Mainstem	1,734	4,534	3,364	0.21%	0.45%	0.50%
	Select Area	238	362	257	0.15%	0.15%	0.12%
	Commercial Total	1,972	4,896	3,621	0.36%	0.60%	0.62%
Recreational	LCR Sport	10,157	15,643	13,572	0.84%	1.05%	0.79%
	BONN to McN	1,354	2,086	2,231	0.11%	0.14%	0.13%
	Snake River	976	1,503	1,546	0.17%	0.21%	0.15%
	Sport Total	12,487	19,232	17,349	1.12%	1.40%	1.07%
	Total Non-Indian	14,459	24,128	20,970	1.48%	2.00%	1.69%

2014 Summer Season

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook Forecast - 67,500 fish
- Actual return – 78,300 fish
- Fisheries upstream of Priest Rapids Dam allocated ~67%
- Non-Indian fisheries downstream of PRD are allocated 60/40 sport /commercial
- Sockeye forecast – 347,100 fish
- Actual return - 645,000 fish
 - ESA limit 1%; allocated 70/30 sport/commercial
 - Retention allowed in mainstem fisheries

2014 Summer Season *(Continued)*

- LCR sport open June 16-30 and July ~3-31 (MSF, 2 fish bag)
- BON- PRD sport open June 16-July 31 (MSF, 2 fish bag)
- Above PRD sport open beginning ~July 1- (MSF, 2 fish bag)
- Commercial season consisted of 5 periods (8-12 hrs each)
- Select Area fishery in Youngs Bay only (early returning fall Chinook)
- Wanapum and Colville tribal fisheries also occurred

2014 Summer Season Results

2014 Non-Treaty Summer Chinook Fisheries Summary				
(All data preliminary and includes kept + release mortalities)				
	Pre	Post		
Runsize	67,500	78,300		
Harvest allocated	Allowed		Actual	Actual/
Fishery	Pre	Post	Take	Allowed
PFMC Ocean Fisheries	4,000	4,640	4,640	
Below Priest Rapids Dam (PRD)	32.5%	35.7%		
Recreational Below Bonneville	2,414	3,316	2,385	72%
Commercial Below Bonneville	1,893	2,601	2,788	107%
Recreational Bonn. to PRD	426	585	559	96%
Below PRD Total	4,733	6,502	5,732	88%
Above Priest Rapids Dam (PRD)	67.5%	64.3%		
Wanapum Tribal	300	350	150	43%
Colville Tribal	4,915	6,441	3,622	56%
Recreational above PRD	4,615	6,091	2,875	47%
Above PRD Total	9,830	12,883	6,647	52%
Non-Treaty Total	18,563	24,025	17,019	71%

2014 Fall Season

- Preseason forecast – 1.5 million Chinook (919K URBs)
 - ESA impacts allocated ~ 70/30 for URB and LRH
 - Preseason planning - 32% URBs and 70% LRH to sport
- Actual estimate - ~ 1.1 million Chinook (77% of forecast)
- Preseason Forecast - 640,000 Coho
- Actual estimate - ~ 900,000 Coho (140% of forecast)
- Fisheries constrained by ESA limits on LCN tule fall Chinook and LCR coho
- Fishery season objectives met
- Preliminary actual sharing – 36% URBs and 80% LRH to sport

2014 Fall Fishery - Sport

- Buoy 10 – season objective met (Chinook open through LD)
 - 107,700 angler trips
 - Chinook catch (26.8K) ranked 3rd highest; less than preseason
 - Coho catch (57.6K) also very high
 - Allocated ESA impact on LCN tules likely exceeded preseason
- LCR sport – season objective met
 - 143,900 angler trips
 - Chinook catch (26.3K) ranked 3rd highest; less than preseason
 - Coho catch (5,800) ranked high for this area
 - Allocated ESA impact LCN tules likely similar to preseason
- Z6 sport – full season

2014 Fall Fishery - Commercial

- Chinook fisheries – August through October in Zones 4-5
 - Chinook catch totaled 97,700 fish; similar to preseason
 - Allocated ESA impact on LCN tules likely less than preseason
- Coho fisheries – October in Zones 1-3
 - Tanglenet gear utilized in nine periods (MSF)
 - 19,000 hatchery coho, deliveries 17-39 per period
 - Small mesh (6-inch) gear utilized in 13 periods
 - 46,300 coho, deliveries ranged from 19-89 per period
- Select Area Commercial – standard season
 - Chinook catch (24.3K) highest since 1988
 - Coho catch (168K) highest on record

Pilot Commercial Seine Fishery

- 22-day season (Aug 22-Sep 30) to address research-related questions on implementing this new gear type
- ESA impacts used from limited research impacts
- Lottery drawing for 6 beach and 4 purse seines permits
- Individual Fish Quotas (IFQs) assigned to each permit
- Landings include 3,900 Chinook and 1,000 coho
- Mixed results for success of all permittees
- High start-up costs and low mark rates were most significant issues described by fishers in a post-season questionnaire

2014 Economic measures

- One of the guiding principles reads in part “*seek to enhance the overall economic well being and stability of Columbia River fisheries*”
- Identifiable economic measures include:
 - Angler trips for recreational fisheries
 - Ex-vessel values for commercial fisheries
- Expansion factors or “multipliers” can be applied to both these metrics
- Both metrics are strongly affected by outside factors
 - Run size strength, river conditions, mark rate, etc.

2014 Angler Trips

- Below Bonneville fisheries:
- Total angler trips in 2014 was highest since 1977
- Total Chinook catch in 2014 was a record-setting 70,800 fish

Below BON	Angler Trips		
	2012	2013	2014
Spring	127,900	109,700	145,600
Summer	80,700	52,000	53,700
Fall – B10	65,100	65,800	107,700
Fall - mainstem	128,800	141,500	143,900
Total	402,500	369,000	450,900

- upstream of BON - the additional angler trips/harvest would significantly increase these values if included

2014 Commercial Fisheries

- Mainstem and Select Area sites:
- Total Chinook catch highest since late 1980s
- Total coho catch was highest since 2003
- Mainstem accounted for 60% of Chinook and coho catch
 - Mainstem fall Chinook was 43% of annual total ex-vessel value

	2012	2013	2014
Mainstem	\$1,886,370	\$3,212,689	\$3,755,108 ^a
Select Area	\$1,305,444	\$2,131,769	\$2,472,256
Total	\$3,191,814	\$5,344,458	\$6,227,364

- ^aSeine fisheries added an additional \$65.6K in 2014

2014 Policy Performance

- 2014 fisheries - within ESA, *U.S. v Oregon* and Commission guidelines
 - Adaptive management protocols enacted in Spring season
 - Season objectives met
 - Tanglenet gear continue for coho
 - Seine gear implemented in fall research fishery
 - R&D for new Select Area sites continues
 - Efforts continue to develop other alternative gear types
 - Public processes in place help to ensure transparency, input

2015 and Beyond

- Spring – ESA sharing 70/30; season similar to 2014
- Summer – harvest/ESA shared 70/30 for Chinook and sockeye; seasons developed during the North of Falcon process
- Fall – ESA shared ~70/30 for Chinook; seasons developed during the North of Falcon process
- Further and continued implementation of alternative gear types in commercial fisheries

Keys outcomes for success

- *US v Oregon* and other management protocols are met; remain within ESA conservation limits
- Commercial Fisheries:
 - Select Area R&D result in increased harvest
 - Alternative gear is successfully used to harvest additional hatchery salmon
 - maintain access to surplus upriver bright fall Chinook
 - restores access to late stock hatchery coho
- Recreational fisheries:
 - increases angler trips and meet season objectives
 - maintain opportunity throughout basin

Questions?



Cathlamet Channel

- Study conducted Feb 24-May 19, 2014
- Stock mix ~55% upriver component (visual ID)
 - highest proportion in 'top' section
- Keep 2 Chinook for every 1 steelhead handled
- Handle 1.2 Chinook for every (45 min) drift made

2014 Cathlamet Channel Test Fishery					
	Chin	Chin		# of	Chin
2014	Adults	Jacks	Steelhead	Drifts	CPUE
Top	103	24	43	55	1.9
Middle	61	12	13	38	1.6
Lower	19	7	16	58	0.3
Total	183	43	72	151	1.2

Key Guiding Principles

- Promote the recovery of ESA-listed species and the conservation of wild stocks
- Continue to meet terms of the *U.S. v. Oregon* Agreement
- Seek to enhance the economic well-being and stability of Columbia River fisheries
- Subject to adaptive management provisions, prioritize recreational fisheries in the mainstem and commercial fisheries in off-channel areas of the lower Columbia River

Key Guiding Principles

- Subject to adaptive management provisions, phase out gillnets in the mainstem and transition gillnet use to the off-channel areas
- Enhance economic benefits of off-channel commercial fisheries
- Develop and implement selective fishing gear and techniques for mainstem commercial
- Maintain consistent and concurrent fishery management policies between Oregon and Washington